Increase in urban poverty

161. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that urban poverty is fast increasing in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for sharp increase in urban poverty; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to reduce urban poverty in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) As per Planning Commission's estimates for the years 1993-94 and 1999-2000, there is a decline in the combined (rural and urban) poverty ratio from 36% to 26%, while in urban sector; the poverty ratio has come down from 32.4% to 23.6% during the period. The estimated number of urban poor had also decreased from 76.3 to 67.1 million during the period 1993-94 to 1999-2000.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) In order to ameliorate the living conditions of the urban poor in the country, Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation is implementing an employment oriented urban poverty alleviation programme named Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) since 1.12.1997.

Also to address the housing and basic services needs of the urban poor living in slums, the Sub-Mission of Basic Services for the Urban Poor (BSUP) under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) has been launched in selected 63 Mission Cities, since December, 2005. For the towns/Cities other than the Mission Cities, the Integrated Housing & Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) is being implemented to provide housing and basic services to the urban poor.

Shortage of houses for BPL category

162. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is acute shortage of houses for Below Poverty Line in the country particularly in Bihar;

(b) if so, the effective measures Government are taking to resolve this problem;

(c) the total number of houses required for this category particularly in Bihar;

(d) whether Government have formulated any scheme in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has formulated a National Housing and Habitat Policy, 1998 to address the problem of housing in general and that for Below Poverty Line families in particular.

(c) As per working group report for the Tenth Plan, urban housing shortage is estimated at 22.44 million. State-wise figure were not estimated by the working group. For BPL category no separate estimates are available.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Government has launched the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) to assist cities and towns in taking up housing and infrastructural facilities for the poor in 63 cities under the Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) Programme. For non-Mission cities, for taking up housing and slum upgradation programmes the Integrated Housing & Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) has been launched. Both BSUP and IHSDP Programmes are under implementation since December, 2005.

Financial assistance to NER States

163. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the financial assistance sanctioned and released by the Central Government in the country particularly to the States of North Eastern Region during the last three years under the Urban Employment and Poverty Eradication Schemes, year-wise; and